

### The Process

In order for a review of an individual motorist to begin, MVC must receive a letter from a family member, physician, judge or police officer regarding a re-evaluation. Include the motorist's medical condition(s), and as much of the following information as possible: name and address, driver license number and date of birth. Include your relationship to the driver and your observations regarding the person's driving safety.

*Anonymous reports cannot be considered.*

After receiving this information, MVC may send a letter to the motorist stating that a driver record review and medical qualifications review are necessary.

The name of the individual that reports a motorist as unsafe can be disclosed.

### Contacting MVC's Medical Review Unit

By fax: (609) 341-3373. MVC will follow-up with physicians that fax in a report.

Questions may be directed to the Unit by telephone: (609) 292-4035

MVC on the Web: <http://www.njmvc.gov>

### Concerned About a Spouse, Family Member or Friend?

If your family member has difficulty driving because a medical condition has impaired their ability to follow the rules of the road, you can help.

Discontinuing driving or restricting driving are options. To do so, MVC needs to hear from you.

MVC's Medical Review Unit has developed a process that has helped thousands reach important decisions about when a medical condition could impact the safety of the driver, passengers, pedestrians and other motorists.

Please note that the driver review process is potentially costly and time consuming.

### What MVC May Do

MVC's Medical Review Unit considers each case individually.

The review may include:

- Vision test
- Road test
- Written test
- Medical checkup report with motorist's physician
- Monitoring and reporting of medical conditions
- Restricted driving privileges
- Revoked driving privileges
- Combination of above

# Medical Conditions & Driving

*When Should MVC Know?*

### Motorist Safety...For All Motorists

Reporting family members to MVC because their driving ability may be medically impaired is never an easy decision. Still ...

It could be one of the most important decisions you make concerning safety. Ultimately, concern for your loved one's safety and the safety of other motorists should be the deciding factor.

### Driver Safety Concerns

- Doesn't obey traffic signals
- Drives too slowly
- Involved in multiple accidents
- Involved in numerous close-calls

### Where You May Find Help

- The Motor Vehicle Commission
- Local Law Enforcement
- Physician or eye care provider
- County Offices/Area Agency on Aging
- AARP
- Driving Schools
- Community Service Organization

### Signs of Impairment

The following list contains some of the more prevalent impairment signs and conditions identified by MVC's Medical Review Unit:

- Confusion
- Disorientation
- Memory loss or lapses
- Chronic drowsiness
- Impaired/altered consciousness
- Alzheimer's or dementia
- Neurological conditions, such as seizure or blackout disorders
- Sleep disorders, such as sleep apnea
- Visual impairment

### Driving Restrictions

Not all medical conditions should keep motorists from driving. So ...

#### **MVC has adopted two new restrictions:**

- driving only during daylight hours
- driving only on roads with posted speed limits of 50 mph or lower

Restricted licenses allow certain motorists to continue to drive only in certain situations, such as during daylight.

MVC may issue a restricted license only after a medical assessment or re-exam of the driver.

### Physicians

New Jersey law only requires physicians to report to MVC information about recurrent seizures their patients may have, such as those associated with various forms of epilepsy.

However, in 1999, the American Medical Association (AMA) said that physicians are *ethically* responsible for notifying MVC if they believe a patient may not be able to drive safely.

### Age is Not a Factor in Medical Review Decisions

At no time does MVC's Medical Review Unit consider age when determining drivers' medical fitness. Only medical conditions, a medical report from your family doctor and the decision of the MVC Medical Review Unit will be used as criteria in judging a motorist's fitness to drive.

With age often occurs a natural deterioration of important faculties. Vision, reaction and response time, and information processing, tend to blur and slow down as motorists age.

These and other conditions may require medical attention for safe driving. Ultimately, certain conditions may keep individual motorists from continuing to drive.